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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 002765

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EEB PDAS NELSON, MSAKAUE  
TREASURY FOR MURDEN, CARNES

EO 12958 DECL: 10/30/2018  
TAGS ECON, EINV, PGOV, UK  
SUBJECT: CONSERVATIVE PARTY CAUGHT FLAT-FOOTED BY BROWN'S

QUICK MANEUVERS ON FINANCIAL CRISIS, SAYS SENIOR TORY MP  
REF: A. LONDON 2666 B. LONDON 2603

Classified By: Economic Minister Counselor Mark Tokola for reasons 1.4 b and d.

11. (C) PM Brown's relatively deft performance (ref b) in handling the economic crisis over the past month has caught the Conservative Party off guard.  
12. (C) Fallon said that Brown should be held responsible for the weakness of the Tripartite Committee, which he implemented and which failed to meet expectations.  
13. (C) The economic crisis was not near its end, Fallon remarked, saying that he expected even greater shocks in the near-future. He was most

Comment

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14. (C) Fallon's comments to us reflected Conservative frustration -- and some grudging admiration -- for Prime Minister Brown's skill, so far, LONDON 00002765 002 OF 002  
"a serious man for serious times," and a "leader born for this hour," has worked so far. The Conservatives, on the other hand, came across as weak Visit London's Classified Website: [http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit ed\\_Kingdom](http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:Unit ed_Kingdom)  
LeBaron